



Motorcycling in Michigan

May 2007

- The number of endorsed motorcyclists in Michigan broke the half-million mark in 2006. There are now more than 506,000 endorsed riders.
- While motorcycling is still dominated by men, it is gaining popularity among women. Michigan has more than 51,000 female licensed riders, up from 37,000 just seven years ago.

That trend is mirrored nationwide. Female ownership of motorcycles went from 8.2 percent in 1998 to nearly 10 percent in 2003, according to the Motorcycle Industry Council. In 2003, there were 6.6 million motorcycle owners in the United States, about 635,000 of which were women.

- The number of motorcycle fatalities in Michigan fell from 122 in 2005 to 114 last year, a 7 percent decline. However, nearly half of the more than 3,200 motorcycle crashes in 2006 involved no other vehicles except the motorcycle, which suggests that greater caution or training could have helped to prevent some of the incidents.
- More than 20,000 Michigan residents are expected to attend motorcycle training or go through a third-party skills test this year.
- Up to 48 additional rider-coach instructors will be trained this year to meet the growing demand for motorcycle courses.
- Nationally, sales of motorcycles and scooters climbed for the 14th consecutive year in 2006, reaching 1,158,000, according to the Motorcycle Industry Council. That's up from 1,149,000 in 2005.

Annual sales peaked in 1973 when 1.5 million motorcycles were purchased.